

have found them, let each one of us become great follower, which is only a little less than being a great leader. B. C. M.

#### The General Conference

The date is Friday, August 31, 1900. The rates at the inn are the same as last year—one dollar per day, two in a room; one dollar and twenty-five cents, one in a room.

Everything points to a good conference. You should not miss this meeting.

Brother J. H. Hall has been invited to attend and he writes me that he will be there. He will have charge of the music, and this feature alone will richly pay all to attend. Hurrah for Hall!

But are you arranging to come? You will need the rest, you will need the help. For the sake of the cause you can afford to meet with God's children. G. W. RENCH,  
Sec. Ex. Com.

#### Notice

A meeting of the Brethren Publication Board will be held at "The Inn," Winona, Ind., Thursday, Aug. 30, at 6 P. M. Business of importance will be presented and a full attendance is desired.

J. M. TOMBAUGH, Pres.

### Brief Notes

In the recent death of Admiral Philip the navy loses one of its best men. It was he who, when the Spanish ships were sunk off the coast of Cuba, restrained the cheering of his men saying, "Don't cheer boys the poor wretches are dying." It was he who in the hour of that victory hushed the noise of jubilee to thank God for the success. Such men remind one of Oliver Cromwell who was as religious as he was brave. The combination may seem anomalous, but if it is right to be in the army or navy at all, certainly it is right to be a Christian in it. If all our soldiers and sailors were such there soon would be little work for the army and navy.

Several weeks ago a man procured some chloroform with which to kill a dog. Carelessly he left the bottle wrapped up lying on a chair. His two little girls found it and playing it was a dolly took it to their room and slept with it on the pillow. In the morning both were sleeping the sleep of death. "Criminal carelessness!" you say. Pause. Another man has a poisonous pipe which he leaves about and now his boy is a confirmed smoker hindering all that is best in his nature and hastening on in the deadly sleep of selfishness. And another parent, a mother, carelessly allows sensational novels in the house and her daughter is imbibing their giddy spirit and becoming fast unfit for the serious work of life. And other parents are carelessly allowing worse than chloroform bottles to lie around in the shape of unfit companions for their sons and daughters. They will wake up some morning to find them debauched and ruined beyond their control. Is not this criminal too?

The movements for small parks is gaining ground in all our large cities. Old business blocks in the very midst of the smoky, busy parts of the city are being transformed into small green parks. These will be like the oasis in the desert, like the stars in the night, like bit of the heaven we hope for in the midst of the squalor of earth. It is another indication too, that the world is growing better when even business men and politicians value fresh air and beauty enough to sacrifice valuable business lots for this purpose. Thru these little breathing holes many a weary one will get a glimpse

thru the smoky canopy of the blue heaven beyond and perchance think of Him who made the heavens. Ancient cities had no such places outside of the estates of the rulers and the rich. The whole of ancient Jerusalem, wall and all, could be put inside of Washington park in Chicago and there would be a good sized farm to spare. Yet Washington park is but one of the numerous parks of Chicago. If cleanliness is next to godliness, then beauty and purity must not be far from righteousness. At least these things will beget righteousness both by their suggestiveness and by the opportunity they afford to realize that a man's life ought not consist of drudgery and dirt. It is to be hoped that the small park movement may permeate all our cities.

Practical joking is easily carried too far. Children need to be taught to avoid it. Recently five boys at Goshen, Ind., were making sport with a half-witted boy who was bathing with them. The result was that he was drowned. A little while before some college-students were initiating a freshman into a fraternity by pumping water on his head. The result was a brain fever which left him insane. There is a legitimate place for fun in life, but life is far too serious for very much of mere pleasure-seeking. Surely it is too serious to risk the health and even the life of another for the sake of a moments sport.

### Information Bureau

Other questions are set aside this week in order that we may give attention to the questions asked by Quiet Observer in last issue. We need not take them up one by one because the real answer to all of them, or nearly all, is the same. The ashes and rocks spewed out by a volcano may vary in shapes and colors and weight but they all betray their volcanic origin. Just so the anomalous things which Quiet Observer mentions all bear the ear-marks of the substratum of selfish human nature. The same deep lying cause which makes a man spend money for tobacco or a woman for needless finery or a child for gum when they cannot be induced to spend it for missions or the college or church paper—the same cause will make the man put money above morals at the ballot box, will cause the woman to put society parties above the prayer meeting, will cause the child to put the company of the streets above the company of the home or Sunday-school and will cause them all together to be ready for anything which will minister to selfish, sensual, present pleasures and to be indifferent to all that requires effort or sacrifice for the sake of the future or for others.

All of these questions then, and a thousand more like them which Quiet Observer might ask, may be summed up in the one question, Why are people so selfish?

Every man will have his own answer and his own remedy. Surely our answer will not please all. Perhaps it is presumptuous to try to answer it at all. But if we can add one single, feeble gleam of light the result will repay the effort.

It is characteristic of heathen religions that they put their golden age in the past. They cling to the teachings of the ancient sages and put the night after the day in their calendars. But in God's revelation thru the Jewish people we have the era of the kingdom in the future as the day-star of hope. The people are not tied to an external revelation in the past but the Father "worketh even until now" leading the world on to the consummation of its highest hope. The Jewish calendar made the day begin in the evening. Science and revelation agree in putting darkness and chaos first with light and development following. How far back the beginnings of man's development take us or how far toward the likeness of God the end may carry us are questions which are not so vital now as the simple fact that the law of development is back of all the history that we know anything about. What

has this to do with Quiet Observer's questions? We will see. Now it is a fact that the lower forms of life develop first and most rapidly. There was first the waste of chaos, then the development of the vegetable and animal life and finally man. Man himself passes from the stage of primeval savagery thru the various stages of civilization on to the kingdom of God. Each individual in his own development passes thru precisely these stages. Physical development first, then mental, then moral; this is the order for each individual and for society. We must not therefore look for perfection in the past or present but in the future.

Again the past persists in the present. Three-fourths of all we are we have received by heredity. Men are selfish and sensual because their ancestors far back were more selfish and sensual.

Again the low forms of life, the one-celled plants and animals develop rapidly and are short lived. The higher forms are more complex and therefore require more time, but last longer. Ought we not expect that character, the highest part of man's nature should be last and longest in its development, because most eternal in its nature? God might have made men as obedient as the stars but such men would be characterless automats. Only free will with its temptations, its battles and victories, can develop character and therefore fitness for the kingdom of God.

At the present stage of the world's progress there is much of the old animal, carnal nature still uneliminated and it cannot be eliminated by any miracle. God's government is not arbitrary but educative. (Titus 2:11, 12.) We must not expect to see sudden perfection of the race. After centuries of domestication the cat still retains its ancient habit of prowling at night. So with other animals. So with the race. In due time the spiritual nature will be supreme. The kingdom of love will triumph over the world of selfishness.

The highest point at which flowering plants have been found was in Tibet, at 19,200 feet. Nine species were recorded at 19,000 feet or higher.

The universal verdict of visitors to the Paris Exposition is that the United States art section is the finest and most interesting of all the foreign art sections in the grand palace of fine arts.

The Austrian crown jewels contain a splendid emerald necklace and the largest single emerald in the world.

The State of Minnesota alone produces approximately about 80,000,000 bushels of wheat, or about one thirty-seventh of the total production of the world. Of this she is able to export two-thirds.

It is a fact not generally known that 15 counties in Indiana were named for men who took part in the Battle of Tippecanoe. Indiana was just being admitted to the Union when the battle occurred, and it was pounced upon to furnish the nomenclature of the newly-formed counties.

Last year there were coined 32,000,000 more pennies than in the year before, and the coinage of nickles, dimes, quarters and halves increased largely. In dollars and cents the increase in minor coinage for the fiscal year is about \$3,700,000.

A pot that cannot boil over has been invented by a Berlin machinist. It has a perforated rim, thru which the overflowing fluid returns to the pot.

An old Danish lady residing in Texas has a Bible printed in the Danish language. It is a big volume over a foot long and five inches in thickness. The book is bound in leather with a covering of thick board sides. It contains Martin Luther's commentaries, under the direction of King Christian IV., King of Denmark and Sweden, in the year 1633.

Baron von Ketteler, whose name as German Minister figures in the Chinese dispatches, is married to an American girl, Miss Maud Ledyard, daughter of the president of the Michigan Central Railroad, and brother of the Yale student killed in the Philippine service last winter.